

THE

שקל

SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

AINA'S First National Convention

Encyclopedia Judaica: Earliest Coins

Medals of the Holy Land

Winners: AINA Fifth Study Tour Photo Contest

The Arthur Fiedler Medal

Free Masonry Memorabilia

Egyptian Fantasy Medals

Winners: AINA Convention Exhibits

25 Mil Pattern in Brass of 1949

Club News and Others

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P. O. BOX 3194 • CHURCH STREET STATION • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10008

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By now wherever you live, you have heard of the overwhelming and dramatic success of the first national AINA Convention. Those of us who shared its birth and thrilled to its momentum as it became a greater and greater success on an almost hourly

basis have shared an experience which we will never be able to repeat. AINA may have greater and more exciting futures; nothing will ever however diminish this first great national meeting with its enthusiastic activities in so many activities across the four action-loaded days.

Thousands of numismatists from 20 states participated in various activities almost down to the final minutes. The Bourse was a tremendous field of numismatic adventure with dealers from coast-to-coast all reporting unprecedented collector interest.

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GEORGE GILBERT, *Editor*

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AINA'S FIRST CONVENTION GIANT SUCCESS; BRAM HONORED

by The Editors of Coin World

Morris Bram, founding president of the American Israel Numismatic Association, was elected to another two-year term and named life member No. 1 at the Greater New York Coin Convention, an AINA-sponsored event at New York Sheraton hotel May 3-6.

Adding to the excitement and significance of the show was the observance of Israel's 25th anniversary as a nation. Many convention guests saw the Sunday afternoon parade commemorating Israel's birthday.

Bram received the life membership in the form of a plaque at the Saturday night banquet as his wife, Lena, watched. Later he received a standing ovation.



Morris Bram (left) receives award from Ben Spencer.

The citation accompanying the honor read:

"American Israel Numismatic Association honors Morris Bram, friend, leader, true American and sincere patriot of Israel in recognition of his able leadership, and as a tribute to his devotion, wise judgment and brilliant achievement."

Presentation of the plaque was made by AINA Treasurer Benjamin Spencer

who prefaced his remarks by saying he was going to "reverse the coin," and honor Bram, the man who usually does the honoring.

Bram, visibly affected by the surprise tribute paid him by the AINA board of directors, said:

"I share this happiness with my sweet wife."

Elected to serve with him for the next two years were Edward Schuman, Miami; Maurice M. Gould, Tustin, Calif., and Harry Flower, Chicago, as vice presidents.

George Gilbert, who is also editor of *The Shekel*, official magazine of AINA, is secretary, and Benjamin Spencer, treasurer.

Directors include Flowers, Sidney Bluestone, Schuman, Edward Janis, Spencer, Bram, Irving Rudin, Nathan Soebel, Gould, Mel Wacks, Ben Abelson, Robert Messing and Gilbert.

Directors in Israel are Sylvia Haffner, Arie Kindler and Yaakov Meshorer.

Presidents of the 30 Israel Numismatic Society clubs form the advisory council.

Maurice Gould, who is a candidate for election to the American Numismatic Association board of governors, received AINA endorsement during the meeting.

Yitzhak Avni, director general of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. of Jerusalem, was prevented from attending the meeting by a sprained back.

Rafael Aldor, North American director of the corporation, was spokesman for the agency. Maurice Gould substituted for Avni during the educational forum conducted with Edward Schuman as moderator.

Appearing with him were Edward Janis and Margo Russell, *Coin World* editor.

Master of Ceremonies George Becht, a leading New York banker and numismatist introduces honored guests from the podium to start the Convention's formal banquet.



A Bourse of over 70 dealers from across the country was a major area of attraction for AINA members, guests and local numismatists. Israel's first platinum issue was delivered to the Bourse floor in time for the Convention. Most dealers showed U. S. offerings.



Aldor praised the planning committee, declaring the convention "beyond all my expectations." He thanked AINA directors as he described the outreach to various clubs in such cities as Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington and Baltimore.

"The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. supports AINA with advice, assistance, helping it to grow,"

Aldor said. "The goals of AINA are the same as our agency—the promotion of numismatics and the study of numismatics and Jewish history through the study of numismatic items."

Aldor took an active part in the annual meeting of AINA members and the delegates workshop session which followed it. He traced the intense demand for Israeli coinage, and



The newly elected Board of Directors convened twice during the Convention to set plans for AINA's continued growth. The first Regional Vice Presidents in AINA history were appointed; the conventions for succeeding years were mapped out. Programs of membership education had high priority.

the decision to increase mintages, climaxing with a record mintage of Independence day coinage to "cool off the market," he said.

A reunion of AINA tour members on Friday evening, planned by Harry Schacher and Fred Roganson, brought together a large group of fellow travelers who relived the trips through the vivid slides taken by Roganson.

Among those receiving special recognition at Saturday night's banquet were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stefanacci who were celebrating their 27th anniversary; Jackson Storm who is mentioned prominently as chairman of the 1976 American Numismatic Association convention in New York City; Michael Granis, who started Morris Bram in the hobby over two decades ago and Vincent Alones for his "untiring efforts."

Robert Weber, Fred Bertram, officials of the Judiac Heritage Society, and Sculptress Karen Worth and Designer Oscar Harris, were presented, along with Ed Quigliana, Franklin Mint representative.

George Becht, prominent banker and numismatist in the New York area, was master of ceremonies at the banquet. Sharing the dais were Mrs. Becht, Mr. and Mrs. Bram, Mrs. John P. Pittman, wife of the ANA president; Chester Krause, head of Krause Publications, Iola, Wis., and Margo Russell, of Coin World. Mrs. Russell was presented with a bronze and silver set of Haym Salomon Bicentennial medals for her "vigorous support for Bicentennial coins and medals."



Left: Rafael Aldor, Consul of Israel and Director for North America of the ICGAM Corp. receives a surprise gift-award for services to AINA from Morris Bram, AINA president.



Convention Guests: Publisher Chet Krause of Numismatic News; Margo Russell, Editor of Coin World; and Morris Bram meet at the AINA Workshop.

A U-shaped balcony was the site of exhibits in well-lighted array. From the balcony convention guests could look down into the busy Bourse area below.



A Sunday afternoon meeting of the Judaic Heritage Society which featured a brilliant lecture by Dr. Eli Grad, president of the Boston Hebrew University, closed the first AINA convention.

Serving with Bram as convention officials were William Anton, Jr., bourse chairman, Vincent Alones and Alan Weinberg; educational forum, Edward Schuman; exhibit chairman, Edward Janis; Jackson Storm, Roger Storm.

Club coordinator, Ben Spencer, Irwin Stoff; security, Alones; registration, Morton Zerder, Michael Granis; banquet, Walter Stefanacci, Lou Wasserstrom; publicity, George Gilbert; cocktails, Irving Golub.

Tours reunion, Harry Schacher, Fred Roganson; reception and hospitality, Moe Weinschal, David Greenberg and Al Yatkowitz; youth group, Alan Weinberg, Nathan Sobel; awards, medals and badges, Sobel and Alones.



A reunion of members of the five AINA Study Tour to Israel brought together about 100 past tour members who relived their experiences through a major slide presentation by Fred Raganson of Connecticut who assembled slides from past tours to recreate vivid memories.

Guests to the Convention were registered at special desks by AINA volunteer workers and many wives who greeted visitors from 20 states to the four-day event.

From L. to R.: Lena Bram; Morton J. Zerder; Hilda Janis; Michael Granis and Ada Weinschel.



A special AINA Hospitality Table was manned by AINA Board Members and their wives throughout all show hours. Moe Weinschel (seated) and Ben Spencer (right) greet Harry Flower and Ben Odesser of Chicago.

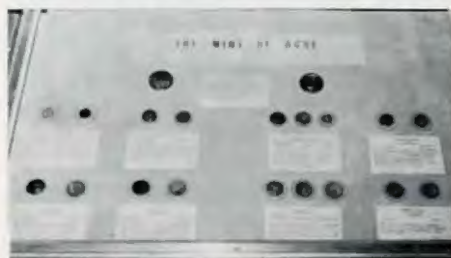


Maurice M. Gould, prominent numismatic writer and a member of the AINA Board addressed the Educational Forum to review key incidents in his long history of numismatic friendship with the amazing coincidence that both he and his school chum Irv Rudin of Boston in the 1920s are now together again—as Board Members of AINA.



SCHONWALTER WINS BEST-OF-SHOW WITH "COINS FROM MINT OF ACRE"

Robert Schonwalter won best-of-show at the Greater New York Coin Convention, sponsored by the American Israel Numismatic Association, May 3-6, with his exhibit, "Coins From the Mint of Acre."



One of the rare bronze medals, mint-age 150, struck for the fifth annual AINA tour to Israel, was presented to Schonwalter for his prize-winning display.

Exhibit Chairman Edward Janis, who presided over the awards ceremony at the banquet, gave functional awards to both competitive and non-competitive exhibitors—with every exhibitor receiving a plaque.

Many viewers pronounced the Jewish-Israeli exhibits the finest ever seen in this country, and the exhibit room, arranged gallery fashion, was constantly filled.

In Class I, U.S., Vincent Alones won first "Current American Army

Decorations." Second was Irwin Stoff with "Victor Brenner and Lincoln Cents." Third went to Howard Hazelcorn who displayed "Panorama of U. S. Gold Coins."

Class II, State of Israel, first place went to Stanley Yulish with "Israel Errors and Varieties." Raphael Ellenbogen won second with "First Ten Years of Israel Coins." Third went to Philip Sperber with "Medals of Israel."

Class III, Coins of the Holyland to 1948, saw Edwin Mendelssohn win first and Dr. Saul Needleman, second.

The Mendelssohn exhibit was "Ancient Coins of Jews." Dr. Needleman showed "History of Judaea and Coins."

"Moses and Ten Commandments" won first place for Harry Flower in Class IV, Numismatic Judaica. Arthur Leff was second with "Twelve Tribes of Israel," and J. Benjamin Yablok, third, with "What Is Jewish in Numismatics."

Non-competitive exhibitors were "Cut-out Coins and Medals of Israel," Lena Bram; "Gold Coins of Israel," Carl Rosenblum; "Medallic Story of Jewish people," Fred Bertram; "Biblical Coins," Michael Granis; "Coins of the Crusaders," Jackson Storm; "Origin of Design of Israel Coins," Ed Janis; "Palestine Currency," Sidney Olson.

1974 CONVENTION PLANS SET

Among the key decisions of the Board of Directors of AINA was confirmation to make the Convention of AINA a national annual event. After exploring major cities as convention sites, it was decided to restage the 1973 Convention in New York City in May at the New York

Sheraton Hotel again. The 1975 Convention will then be held in Miami, Chicago or Los Angeles.

The vote of the Board was unanimous with all agreeing that the organization would maintain the growth and effort which would assure major interest in the annual conventions.

FROM THE ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA

COINS AND CURRENCY

COINS AND CURRENCY This entry is arranged according to the following outline:

Jewish and Non-Jewish Coins in Ancient Palestine

The Pre-monetary Period

Introduction of Coins in Ancient Palestine

The Coins of Judea in the Late Fifth and

First Part of the Fourth Century B.C.E.

The Hellenistic Period

The Jewish Coinage

The Hasmonean Coinage

The Coins of the Herodian Dynasty

The Coinage of the Jewish War

Non-Jewish Coins during the Roman Rule

The Roman Procurators

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The Palestinian City Coins

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Erez Israel under Ottoman Rule

Under the British Mandate

In the Concentration Camps and Ghettos

Ghetto Currency (Paper)

Ghetto Coins

Theresienstadt "Bank Notes"

Forging Foreign Currency at Sachsenhausen

The State of Israel

Legal and Administrative Arrangements in Israel

The 25 Mils of 5708-9

The Perutah Series

The Agorah Series

Commemorative Coins

Bank Notes

Jewish and Non-Jewish Coins in Ancient Palestine. THE PRE-MONETARY PERIOD. Means of payment are mentioned in the Bible on various occasions: the relevant passages in their chronological order reflect the development of these means from stage to stage. When compared with the ma-

terial extant from contemporary cultures of the region, these passages show that the underlying concepts were region wide in the Near East. The earliest form of trade was barter. Certain commodities became generally accepted means of payment such as cattle and hides. This is reflected in Genesis 21:28-30: "Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves" in connection with the settlement with Abimelech in Beersheba) and Genesis 13:2, "Abraham was very rich in cattle, in silver and in gold." This last quotation, however, reflects the fact that Abraham lived in the period of transition from the use of cattle to the use of weighed quantities of metal, which is the next stage in the development of the means of payment—a fact which is well illustrated when he weighs four hundred shekels of silver as payment for the cave of Machpelah in Hebron (Gen. 23:15-16). Onkelos renders 100 kesitah, paid by Jacob for a field in Shechem (Gen. 33:20), by 100 lambs (*hufin*). Cattle as a means of payment is reflected in many usages, such as the Latin *pecunia* (derived from *pecus*, sheep), the Greek *polyboutes* ("rich in oxen," a rich man), and the cattle-shaped weights depicted on Egyptian tomb wall-paintings found in excavations. The shekel was a unit of weight of 8.4 grams in the time of Abraham, based on the Babylonian *siqlu*, which was divided into 24 *gerah* (Babyl. *giru*); 60 Babylonian shekels were one minah and 60 minah one kikkar (Babyl. *biltu*).

The shape of the metal ingots varied. Egyptian tomb wall-paintings depict them as shaped like bracelets or ox-hides. In Genesis 24:22 Eleazar "took a golden ring of half a shekel [bekah] weight, and two bracelets for her hands



ANCIENT COINS

Figure 1. Coin from Lydia, Asia Minor, seventh century B.C.E. Obverse: Head of lion with open mouth. Reverse: Unidentified Electrum (alloy of white gold and silver), 10-13 mm., 4.7 grams.[†]

Figure 2. Coin from Thasos, found at Shechem, late sixth century B.C.E. Obverse: The god Silenus carrying off a nymph. Reverse: A quarter incuse square. Electrum, 20 mm., 145 grams. Shechem excavations. From G. E. Wright, *Shechem*, 1964.

of ten shekels weight of gold." When Joshua conquered Jericho, Achan took booty against orders, among other things 200 shekels of silver and a "golden wedge" of 50 shekels weight (Josh. 7:21). Such a "golden wedge" was discovered during the excavations of Gezer. In the pre-monarchy period the word *kesef* ("silver") was frequently used instead of shekel (Judg. 9:4; and II Sam. 18:11 et al.). During the second period of the kingdoms of Israel and especially of Judah, payments are mentioned in the Bible in the shekel weight, the unit used to weigh the metal bars which were in those days the main means of payment. Jeremiah bought a plot of land and weighed his payment (silver) on scales (Jer. 32:9). Subdivisions of the shekel were the bekah or half-shekel (Gen. 24:22; Ex. 38:26) and the gerah, then a 20th of the shekel (Ex. 30:13). The shekel, in turn, was a 50th part of the maneh,

and the maneh was a 60th part of the kikkar, which thus was equal to 3,000 shekels. The maneh and the kikkar, however, were only units of account and remained so during the Second Temple period when the shekel became a coin denomination. Gold, silver, and bronze ingots were discovered during excavations conducted in Erez Israel and so were scales and weights of the shekel unit and its multiples and fractions.



PERSIAN PERIOD

fourth century B.C.E.

Figure 3. Head/owl type. Obverse: Male head, oriental style. Reverse: Owl standing, facing a small lily. Inscription: *YHD* [*Yahud*]. Silver, 7 mm., 0.39 grams. Formerly in the M. Salzberger collection, Jerusalem. From Y. Meshorer, *Jewish Coins*.

Figure 4. Obverse: Janus head. Reverse: A god seated on a winged chariot, holding falcon in left hand. Inscription: *YDH*. Silver, 15 mm., 3.29 grams. London, British Museum.

COINS AND CURRENCY

INTRODUCTION OF COINS IN ANCIENT PALESTINE. The earliest known coins originate in Lydia in northwest Anatolia in the late seventh century B.C.E. (i.e., before the destruction of the First Temple). No coins of that have yet been discovered in Erez Israel. The earliest coins found on Palestinian soil are from the second half of the sixth century and the first half of the second century B.C.E. They are Greek

[†] Note: All the illustrations are by courtesy of The Bank of Israel, Jerusalem, unless otherwise indicated.

coins from Athens, Thasos, and Macedon, brought apparently to the country by Greek merchants. In the late fifth and first half of the fourth centuries Palestine was under Persian rule and Phoenician coins, especially those from Sidon and Tyre, circulated in the northern part of the country and the coastal strip down to south of Jaffa. At the same time there was an abundance of small coins of the obol and hemi-obol denomination, struck in the Gaza area in a great variety of types, which are also artistically interesting. During that period the Athenian coinage, bearing the head of Pallas Athene and the owl, her holy bird, were the hard currency of the eastern Mediterranean. The owl type coin was so widely imitated on a local level that the local money had the same value as the Athenian coins.

THE COINS OF JUDEA IN THE LATE FIFTH AND FIRST PART OF THE FOURTH CENTURY B.C.E. Alongside the above-mentioned issues, imitations of the Athenian coinage were also issued in Judea. These silver coins are rather rare, but at least six coin types are known with the inscription *Yehud* (Aramaic: Judea). Some follow the "head/owl" type, while others show a falcon, a fleur-de-lis, a Janus head, a god seated on a winged chariot, and a bird of an unidentified kind. It cannot be determined whether the Jewish high priest or the local Persian governor was the issuing authority. On one coin, however, the Hebrew name Hezekiah (*Yehezkiyyah*) can be deciphered and could be related to the high priest mentioned by Josephus (Apion, 1:187-9). The largest denomination of this type which has been discovered is the drachm, but the bulk is composed of oboli and hemi-oboli.

THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD. During the third century B.C.E. Palestine was ruled by the Ptolemies and their currency not only circulated there but was struck in local mints at such coastal towns as Acre (then already called Ptolemais), Jaffa, Ashkelon, and Gaza. This changed after the battle of Panias in 198 B.C.E., when the Ptolemies were replaced by the victorious Seleucids.



Figure 5. Obverse: Falcon. Inscription: *YDH*. Reverse: Fleur-de-lis. Silver, 8.5 mm., 0.35 grams. Jerusalem. Israel Museum, H. Bessin collection.

Figure 6. Obverse: Blank. Reverse: Bird of an unidentified species, probably an owl. Silver, 7 mm., 0.31 grams. Jerusalem, E. Grosswirth collection. From Y Meshorer, *Jewish Coins*.

Figure 7. Obverse: Blank. Reverse: Owl. Inscription on left: *YHD*. Inscription on right: *YHZQY[o]*. Silver, 8 mm., 0.23 grams. Beth Zur excavations. From O. R. Sellers, *The Citadel of Beth Zur*, Philadelphia, 1933.



HASMONEAN DYNASTY,

141-37 B.C.E.

ALEXANDER YANNAI, 103-76 B.C.E.

Figure 8. Obverse: Hebrew inscription within wreath, *Yeho/natan ha-ko/hen ha-gado/l ve-hever ha/yehudim*. Reverse: Double cornucopia, with pomegranate between horns. Bronze perutah, 15 mm., 2.20 grams.

Figure 9. Obverse: Anchor encircled by Greek inscription, "King Alexander." Reverse: Star with eight rays. Between rays, Hebrew inscription, "Jonathan the king." Bronze perutah, 16 mm., 3.00 grams.

Figure 10. Obverse: Anchor within wheel encircling Greek inscription, "King Alexander." Reverse: Star with eight rays surrounded by pearly circle. Around, enigmatic inscription resembling square Hebrew script. Bronze perutah, 14 mm., 1.30 grams.

Figure 11. Obverse: Anchor encircled by wheel, with Greek inscription, "King Alexander." Reverse: Lily, encircled by Hebrew inscription, "Jonathan the king." Bronze perutah, 14 mm., 1.95 grams.

Figure 12. Obverse: Hebrew inscription within wreath, *Ye[ho]natan/ha-kohen ha-gad[o]l ve-hev/er [ha]-yeh[u]d/im*. Traces

The latter used the local mints of Acre, Ashkelon, and Gaza for the production of their own currency, besides the many mints they had in other parts of their kingdom. Their coins circulated in Palestine at least until the first coins were issued by the Hasmonean rulers. The Ptolemies issued gold, silver, and bronze coins, some of the latter of heavy weight in place of the small silver. Their silver standard was lighter than that of the Seleucids which still leaned on the Attic standard.

The Jewish Coinage: THE HASMONEAN COINAGE (135-37 B.C.E.). The consecutive history of ancient Jewish coinage begins after the establishment of the independent Hasmonean dynasty in the 2nd century B.C.E. The bulk of Hasmonean coins were of the small bronze denomination, namely the perutah or dilepton. In accordance with the Second Commandment no likeness of living beings, men or animals, are found on them. Most of the emblems, for example the cornucopia—single or double—the wreath surrounding the legend, the anchor, the flower, the star, and the helmet, were copied from emblems found on the late issues of the Seleucid coinage. All Hasmonean coins bear Hebrew legends, but those of Alexander *Yannai and *Mattathias Antigonus also have legends in Greek. The Hebrew legend, written in the old Hebrew script, almost always appears in the formula, "X the high priest and the *hever of the Jews" (*hever* probably means the assembly of the elders of the state). The Hasmonean rulers are thus styled on most coins as high priests. The only exception is Alexander Yannai who eventually also styled himself king on some of his Hebrew legends. On the Greek legends the Hasmonean rulers styled themselves throughout as "king." With one exception all Hasmonean

of former coin, on which this one was restruck, are visible (diadem, anchor, and some letters). Reverse: Double cornucopia, with traces of partially opened leaves of the lily of former coin visible. Bronze, 16 mm., 2.59 grams.

coins are undated, which presents scholars with difficulties in arranging them chronologically, especially as different rulers went by the same names. In spite of earlier opinions, *Simeon, the first independent Hasmonean ruler (142-135), never issued any coins. According to I Maccabees 15:2-9, Antiochus VII granted Simeon the right to issue coinage, but it has been proved that this grant was withdrawn before Simeon could make use of it. The series of *Shenat Arba* (the "Year Four") formerly assigned to him were actually issued during the Jewish War (66-70 C.E.). It has been suggested that Simeon's son John *Hyrcanus I (135-104 B.C.E.) did not start issuing coins immediately on succeeding his father, but only considerably later, probably in 110 B.C.E. This suggestion is based on the fact that cities in Phoenicia and in Palestine received the right to coin their own money from the declining Seleucid kingdom: Tyre in 126 B.C.E., Sidon in 110 B.C.E., and Ashkelon in 104 B.C.E. John Hyrcanus' coins are the main pattern for the whole series of Hasmonean coins. The obverse depicts a wreath surrounding the legend, "Johanan [Yehohanan] the high priest and the *hever* of the Jews," while the reverse depicts a double cornucopia with a pomegranate. All his coins are of the perutah denomination. The coins of his successor, *Aristobulus I (104-103 B.C.E.), are in brass with the same denomination and type, but the name was replaced by Judah (Yehudah). At the beginning of his reign Alexander Yannai (103-76 B.C.E.) issued coins of the same type as his predecessors, changing the name to Jonathan (Yehonatan). Later, he issued another series of coins (in Hebrew and Greek) on which he styled himself king. Their emblems are star, anchor, both sometimes surrounded by a circle, and flower. A lepton or half-perutah with a palm branch, and a flower also belong to this "king" series. One type of this series, the star/anchor surrounded by a circle, is very frequent. This is the only coin type in the whole series of Jewish coins which bears an Aramaic



JOHN HYRCANUS II, 67-40 B.C.E.

Figure 13. Obverse: Palm branch, flanked on both sides by a Hebrew inscription, *Yehohanan ha-kohen ha-gadol ha-hever ha-yehudim*. Reverse: Lily. Bronze, 11 mm., 1.15 grams.

Figure 14. Obverse: Hebrew inscription within wreath, *Yehohanan/ha-kohen ha-gadol/ve-hever ha-yehudim*. Reverse: Double cornucopia. Bronze perutah, 14 mm., 2.20 grams.

Figure 15. Obverse: Hebrew inscription within wreath, *Yehohanan/ha-kohen ha-gadol/ve-hever ha-yehudim*. Reverse: Double cornucopia, with pomegranate between horns. Bronze perutah, 14 mm., 1.75 grams.

legend written in square Hebrew letters and which has been dated. The Hebrew as well as the Greek date 25, which is the 25th year of reign of Alexander Yannai (78 B.C.E.), were recently discerned. As in the Greek legends and this Aramaic one as well, his name is given as "Alexandros." Alexander Yannai also apparently issued lead coins which belong to his "king" series. It is believed that in his final issues he reverted to the early Hasmonean coin type, styling himself again as high priest but altering his Hebrew name from Yehonatan to Yonatan probably in order to avoid the formula of the tetragrammaton. The bulk of the coins of John Hyrcanus II (67, 63-40 B.C.E.) are in the same shape as those of John Hyrcanus I.

There are, however, varieties which are peculiar to his issues. Greek letters, single or as monograms, eventually appear on his coins. An *A* is to be found on the obverse and sometimes on the reverse; other letters are Δ , Λ or Π . These letters probably refer to the magistrates who were responsible for the mint. A change in the traditional legend, namely "Johanan [Yehohanan] the high priest head of the hever of the Jews," may indicate the privileges bestowed upon Hyrcanus II by Julius Caesar who confirmed him as high priest (Jos. Wars I:194). Besides the regular coin type, Hyrcanus II also issued leptas or half perutot of the same type as did his father Alexander Yannai, bearing the palm-branch/flower. One larger trilepton shows a helmet and a double cornucopia. On all his coins he styled himself high priest.

During the short reign of the last Hasmonean ruler, Antigonus Mattathias (40-37 B.C.E.), a fundamental change occurred in the coin issue of the Hasmoneans. His Hebrew name Mattityahu (Mattathias) is only given on his perutah denomination. The pomegranate between the double cornucopia is replaced by an ear of barley. He issued two larger denominations which can be compared with the



JUDAH ARISTOBULUS, 67-63 B.C.E.

Figure 16. Obverse: Hebrew inscription within wreath, *Yehud[ah] ha-kohen gad/ol ve-hever/ha-yehud/im*. Reverse: Double cornucopia with pomegranate between horns. Bronze, 14 mm., 2.00 grams.

MATTATHIAS ANTIGONUS, 40-37 B.C.E.

Figure 17. Obverse: Seven-branched candelabrum (*menorah*), with Greek inscription, "King Antigonus." Reverse: Shewbread table with Hebrew inscription, [*Mattit*]yah kohen ga[dol].

Seleucid chalcous and dichalcous. Antigonus was the only Jewish ruler who depicted the holy vessels of the Temple of Jerusalem on his coins, i.e., the table of shewbread and the seven-branched candelabrum. In his Hebrew legends he styles himself high priest and in his Greek legends "king." His Hebrew name is known to us only from his coins.

SUSPICIOUS ISRAEL NOTES NOT 'BOGUS'

Though all 100-pound bank notes of Israel may not look alike after they have been in circulation, it does not mean the notes are counterfeit, according to a Bank of Israel spokesman in Jerusalem recently, reports *Coin World*.

The *Jerusalem Post* carried accounts recently that residents of the Hadera area had found "suspicious" 100-pound notes. Bank spokesman observed that for identification purposes, cer-

tain changes are introduced within printing runs as bank notes are produced.

Thus, the color of the serial numbers may vary, the watermark may be slightly altered and the vertical trace line, visible when the note is held against a light, may be switched from the left side to the right.

These differences are not an indication of bogus money, the bank spokesman emphasized.

MEDALS OF THE

"VOLCANI INSTITUTE" MEDAL

This medal was issued in Israel to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Volcani Institute one of the largest research institutes in Israel, located in Beit-Dagan and Rehovot.

Metal: Tombac

Diameter: 45mm

Edge: Plain



Obverse:

Around the rim, in Hebrew, "THE LAND OF WHEAT, GRAIN, GRAPES, FIGS, POMEGRANATES, OLIVES, OIL AND HONEY"; in the center, a background of rolling hills and homes, a seven-branched palm tree laden with dates, and a bowl containing items listed in the legend.

Reverse:

In the center, in Hebrew, "50TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE VOLCANI INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH"; the dates "1921-1971" in English.

"ISRAEL FIRE FIGHTING SERVICE" MEDAL

This medal was issued in Israel by the Fire Fighting Service and was presented for outstanding service. Scarce.

Metal: Tombac

Diameter: 60mm

Edge: Plain



Obverse:

Around the rim, in Hebrew and English, "ISRAEL FIRE FIGHTING SERVICE"; in the center, in Hebrew and English, "WITH COMPLIMENTS"; in the field, the State Seal of Israel; the emblem of the fire fighters is seen on each side, a fire-helmet and the tools of their trade.

Reverse:

In Hebrew, "WHEN THY WALKEST THROUGH THE FIRE THOU SHALT NOT BE BURNED, NEITHER SHALL THE FLAME KINDLE UPON THEE," (Isaiah 43.2). In the background are flames covering the field.

HOLY LAND



"BUILDING WORKERS UNION ANNIVERSARY" MEDAL

This medal was issued in Israel for the 25th anniversary of the Labor Union of Building Workers. It was struck in uniface as they were mounted on plaques and presented in 1971.

Metal: Silverplate (grey) Diameter: 59mm Edge: Plain
Obverse:

In the center, stylized building equipment; above, the numeral "25" on top of four curved arches; on the right rim, the Hebrew inscription "THE LABOR UNION OF BUILDING WORKERS, ISRAEL"; on the bottom in English, "N. U. BUILD. WORKERS, ISRAEL"; below, in Hebrew and English, the dates of the anniversary, "1946-1971."

ISRAEL MUSEUM RECEIVES SPECIMEN 25-PRUTA COIN

A 25-pruta coin of Israel has been donated to the Kadman Numismatic Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel, according to Dr. Arie Kindler, curator. The coin dated 5709 (1949) was the gift of Dr. Harry Altman, an American collector, reported *Coin World* in April.

The presentation was made by J. J. van Grover of N. Y. during the AINA Study Tour Visit to the Museum in March.

In 1949, these coins, featuring a cluster of grapes, replaced the 25-mil aluminum coins struck for Israel in 1948 and 1949. The copper-nickel 25-pruta coins were struck at Imperial Chemical Industries in Birmingham, England, (10,500,000 pieces) and at The Mint, Birmingham Ltd. (2,500,000 pieces).

Two main varieties of this coin are known, with a dot or pearl below the link of the wreath on the value side, and without the dot. The specimen pieces has the dot.

According to Sylvia Haffner, writing

in "The History of Modern Israel's Money 1917-1970," four 25-pruta copper-nickel coins marked SPECIMEN were located in Germany in 1969, all in Proof condition.

ICI spokesman J. Poole wrote, "The negotiations with Israel were carried on by a former executive of our company, who has subsequently died. My only source of information was the documents in our possession. These contain no word on the subject of coins marked SPECIMEN but, the certain existence of the 1949 25-pruta with pearl, convinces me that these pieces were struck at our Mint.

"I assume that these pieces were struck for submission to the Israeli authorities before bulk production was started. This is very understandable, particularly in 1949 when the first coins for the new state of Israel were being prepared. Much, if not all, of the diework which was done in London was based on photographs or

(Continued on page 32)

The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. I recently received a presentation set as a gift, Haffner's S-2. All the coins are uncirculated. However, they were poorly handled and some of the coins are fingermarked. Can these be removed without destroying the vitality of the coins? Shalom.

V. S., Brockton, Mass.

A. It is a source of continual amazement that we find coins that do not have to be handled because they are packaged in a holder which have been mishandled by unknowledgeable collectors. This is especially true of those coins that are placed in a cutout hole in a cardboard sheet like your set of eighteen different trade coins of Israel. Because a coin is held in place in a tight fitting hole merely by pressure, what easier way is there than using one's thumb to sink the coin in its allotted hole? Placing a soft cloth between the coin and the offensive acid-laden thumb will allow some collector hundreds of years hence to examine an uncirculated coin without the etched thumbprint of a thoughtless individual who has long since turned to dust.

As to cleaning these marred coins, I suggest that you first try rinsing the coin with lukewarm water (hot water will change the color of copper and bronze); then with a thick concentrated soap lather of a mild soap such as Ivory, rub the coin on both sides nestled in the palm of your hand using the index finger of your other hand or a soft bristled brush like an old shaving brush. Rinse the coin, still in the palm of your hand and dry it between a soft absorbent lint-free cloth or a Kleenex by dabbing it and not rubbing it. If this fails, try using a commercial cleaner like Care which is available at most coin dealers. This should be applied with a Q-tip and dried with a dry Q-tip. You will find more success with your cupronickel and bronze coins than with copper

and silver. On silver coins only, if the foregoing fails, a watery mixture of bicarbonate of soda and ammonia followed by a quick rinse with cool water might help. Abrasive methods and materials will remove the thumbprints but will also ruin the surfaces of the coin. Forget them; live with the prints.

Q. I collect coins and am a member of the INS of Massachusetts. I am presently 13, having had my Bar-Mitzvah last November 4th. For my Bar-Mitzvah, the I.N.S. presented me with a bronze Bar-Mitzvah medal of the State of Israel.

About a month ago, I gave a show-and-tell talk on the medal to the society. When preparing the necessary information, I noticed an error on the medal. On it, the statement, "at 13 for the fulfillment of the mitzvot", refers to Pirkei Avot, chapter 5, verse 24. However, having studied the book, it is in chapter 5 verse 25. Will you please tell me why the difference?

A. B., Wellesley, Mass.

A. Oh, how I hoped that you were right! There are other mistakes on the medals of the State of Israel but this is not one of them. I checked this point out with an eminent Talmudic scholar, Rabbi Cohen of the Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York City. He examined four different editions and all showed that Chapter 5, verse 24 is the correct reference. But as the good rabbi said: "Perhaps the young man has an edition in which the typesetter made an error. It's possible"

What is more important of whether this quote is right or wrong, is your mental attitude in not accepting every statement that you see be it in a periodical like *The Shekel* or on an official medal as the actual fact. Progress is made by your addition to the known statements of your predecessors. Don't stop inquiring and checking. It is our only hope for the future.

THE ARTHUR FIEDLER MEDAL

by Harry Flower

On December 17, 1969, on the occasion of his 75th birthday, Maestro Arthur Fiedler renowned musician and conductor of the Boston Symphony and Boston "Pops" Orchestras was given a tremendous welcome at Symphony Hall in Boston. After the welcoming, he conducted the regular performance of the Boston Symphony. Following the performance, several hundred friends proceeded to the Prudential Towers complex to join Mr. Fiedler in making his 75th birthday a "memorable occasion" Earlier in the day, Kevin White, Mayor of Boston, had proclaimed December 17, 1969 as "Arthur Fiedler Day"

Among the many gifts, the Maestro was presented with a 3-inch Arthur Fiedler gold medallion. Each of the patrons received a similar 2-inch silver-clad medal embedded in lucite. Of ten medals that were struck in silver, No. 1 was presented to Mr. William O'Brien.



The *Arthur Fiedler Medal* is very impressive in its simplicity. Almost the entire area of the obverse is taken up by the conductor's profile to the left. There is no inscription on this side. The reverse has only a four-line inscription in capital letters: *ARTHUR FIEDLER / BORN - BOSTON / DECEMBER 17, 1894 / MUSICIAN.*

The original *bas-relief* of the Fiedler medal was sculptured in clay by Miss Twanette Tharp, an art major at Boston University. Her design was selected as the result of a competition which was open to students of Boston's leading art schools. The die was prepared from the original sculpture by the L. G. Balfour Co. of Attleboro, Mass. It was later presented to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C.

There was only one 3-inch medal struck in 18 karat gold, which was presented to Mr. Fiedler; there were ten numbered sterling silver medals, 2-inches in diameter; and about 600 2-inch (51mm) silver-plated bronze, each weighing 69.84 grams. Of these silver-plated medals, 300 were embedded in lucite and presented to friends at the party. Most of the remainder was disposed of at this affair. Fifty medals were later used to produce philatelic-numismatic covers. Medal No. 1, of the sterling silver group, was presented to Mr. William E. O'Brien; No. 7 is in permanent display at the British Museum in London; Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are in five PNC Covers (and are so marked); and the remaining there were presented to special individuals.

A lifelong friend and member of the steering committee endeavoring to raise \$1,000,000.00 for the "Arthur Fiedler Boston Pops Fund", Mr. William E. O'Brien of Plymouth, N. H., had originally suggested the striking of the *Arthur Fiedler Tribute Medal*. Later, as his own personal tribute to Arthur Fiedler, Mr. O'Brien commissioned Eunice Alter of Jonal Covers, Marblehead, Mass. to produce fifty special PNC Covers.

This magnificent cover is 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches and features the Fiedler medal surrounded by a beautiful hand-painted adaptation of the emblem of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. On the right side, printed in script: *A Tribute to / Arthur Fiedler*; just below in large capital letters: **WORLD'S GREATEST / AMBASSADOR OF MUSIC**. Then, in smaller letters: **BORN IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS / DECEMBER 17, 1894**.

There is a musical staff on which is painted two gold notes, an A and F, Arthur Fiedler's initials. At the bottom left is the personal signature of the renowned conductor.

The cover was postmarked in Boston on Fiedler's birthday, Dec. 17, 1971. The stamps used were the "American Music" 5c. stamp and two different Christmas Stamps. This outstanding PNC cover has been claimed by many as one of the most beautiful produced to date, destined to become a rare collector's item.

Born in Boston

Any biographical sketch would begin by stating that Arthur Fiedler was born December 17, 1894 in Boston, Massachusetts, the son of Emanuel and Johanna (Bernfeld). He attended Boston Latin School in that city.

His formal musical education began by his attendance of Royal Academy of Music in Berlin from 1910 to 1915. Here, he studied violin with Professor Willy Hess. Later, he obtained a M.A. degree from Tufts College in 1931; Officier d'Academie, France, in 1935; Doctor of Music, Boston has been a faculty member of Boston University since 1930.

His positions in the musical field have been many. He was member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1915, having played viola, violin, celesta, organ and piano. In 1924 he organized the Boston Sinfonietta (an orchestra of 22 players). In 1929 he founded and directed the Esplanade Concerts in Boston. He was the conductor of Cecilia Society Chorus from 1930 to 1936.



WORLD'S GREATEST AMBASSADOR OF MUSIC philatelic-numismatic cover contains the Fiedler Medal. Only 50 were created.

From 1939 to 1942 he was the New England Administrator, Youth Orchestra, Federal Music Project; Music Consultant, Veterans Administration. Also, he was conductor of MacDowell Club Orchestra and conductor of University Glee Club of Providence, R. I. The Maestro was probably best known as the conductor of Boston Pops Orchestra since 1930. This orchestra is known for its concerts of light symphonic music.

Through the years, the many tours, appearances and concerts have been too great to list. To many, this "Pops Potentate" was just too active in the musical world. As a recent example, the 77-year old Maestro returned from a month of guest conducting in Japan to make the Boston Pops appearance in Ames, Iowa. Then, he squeezed in two concerts with the Memphis Symphony before dashing off for eight concerts in twelve days with the Syracuse Symphony. In the middle of this he vanished for a night to appear with the Pops in Chicago. After Syracuse, to New York to lead the Boston Pops at Carnegie Hall on Thursday, April 6, 1972.

Maestro Arthur Fiedler has endeared himself to many thousands by his music and personal charisma. His very active life and has made an impact on the music-loving world also resulted in the issuance of an important medal for the numismatic fraternity.

ISRAEL ISSUES 25th ANNIVERSARY 10-LIROT COIN



Israel's 25th Anniversary numismatic program climaxed with the issue of the 1973 Independence Day silver commemorative coin in May. The coin is issued by the Bank of Israel and distributed worldwide by the ICGAM.

According to Rafael Aldor, North American Director of the Corporation, the theme set for the IL 10, legal tender coin is Israel's Declaration of Independence. The obverse depicts the final paragraph of the declaration document with the signatures of the 'founding fathers' of the State, noticeably David Ben Gurion. Beneath, the operational statement of the document, in Hebrew: "We hereby proclaim the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine/the State of Israel" The reverse

carries Israel's State emblem, the year 1973-5733, the face value, 10 Israel Lirot, and the inscription "Israel's 25th Anniversary," in English, Hebrew and Arabic.

Specifications of the coin are the same as previous silver anniversary issues. Metal is silver .900; diameter 37mm; weight 26 gr.

As usual with Israel commemorative coins, two varieties have been issued: brilliant uncirculated (mintmarked with Star of David), and proof (marked with 'mem'). Quantities struck: B.U. — 125,000; Proof — 41,500. Aldor explains that these mintage figures, which are higher than usual, were determined in view of the higher demand expected for this issue.



SOVIET FREEDOM RECEIPT

The newest and most heart-rendering of recent money-related collectibles is the actual tax receipt which is issued by the Soviet government to those Jews who have sought to leave the U.S.S.R. While many Jews have paid for the right to emigrate, many others have had their tax "waived" as the political situation of the moment dictates.

This is a photograph of an actual cancelled receipt issued during 1972.

ABOUT NEW BOOKS, SHOWS HOARDS AND POSTERS

by Dov Genachowski



As usual, I want to start with what I call my "book department" First of all, a very hearty welcome to the re-appearance of the *Elon*, i.e. bulletin, of the *Israel Numismatic Society*. This very lively publication was in a state of suspended animation for the last couple of years or so. The new issue shows that the old spirit is still there. Almost needless to say—Arie Kindler is editor and his guiding hand is seen throughout the issue. It is in Hebrew and I think all of us should welcome any addition to the periodic literature on Israel numismatics.

Now to turn to something completely different: a book, in Hebrew—*Land of Zion and Jerusalem* by Shlomo Shva and Dan Ben Amotz. It is more an album than a book and I would not recommend its translation into English because I don't think it is possible. It is almost a "must" for anybody with a Templar token or a "Zedaka" one in his collection. In pictures and in authentic texts from contemporary papers, daily life—including the economic aspects — of Palestine from the middle of the 19th Century until the end of the First World War is described and illustrated. It is not a scientific work (for this—the *Magnes Press* of the *Hebrew University* will publish later this year Moshe Maoz's *Studies in Palestine under Ottoman Rule*—in English) but a smattering of Hebrew will be sufficient to catch at least the flavour of that bygone period.

* * *

From books to exhibitions. A recent column told about the forthcoming exhibition of the *Bank of Israel Collection* at the *Israel Museum*. Well, by the time this column appears, it will

be a fact. Scheduled to open May 8th, one day after Independence Day and to run for some weeks, it will show publicly for the first time the collection of Israel's central bank, from the Jewish coins to the present day. Just some minutes ago Yaakov Meshorer called to discuss the exhibition poster, which should be something worthwhile getting by itself.

Another exhibition I look forward to is the *Jerusalem Book Fair*, due to open in a few days. I have always found it a source of numismatic news as well.

* * *

I really want an explanation, because something crazy is going on: Spink's latest price list quotes the gold "shalom" coin at £160 sterling. Here it is still, after the fall, quoted at IL. 2,500—about 60 percent higher. Anyone care to figure this out? [Ed. Note: *Recent violent fluctuations in the gold market will possibly obscure this springtime news*].

* * *

Someone with a long memory might remember my writing in this column quite a while ago that there probably are too many medals using the Jerusalem panorama as part of their design. Well, I should eat my words, as I became responsible for another one. I had occasion once to write in *The Shekel* on the *Shaare Zedek Hospital* in Jerusalem, so I wouldn't go into the very interesting history of the institute—numismatically as well. But to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of its founding and the commencement of its new building, the hospital issued a medal, which shows the new building against a background of—a panorama

of Jerusalem. Since the inscription on the medal, "*In the Service of Jerusalem*", is really what it is all about, this was probably justified.

18 years ago the now famous *Ussfieh Hoard* was discovered by a Druze resident of that village on the Carmel. In a sack there were about 4,500 coins from the time of the Second Temple. About a thousand coins were sold before word of the find reached the *Antiquities Department* of the *Ministry of Culture and Education*. These are now in the hands of museums and collectors all over the world. To prevent further dispersal of the hoard, the *Antiquities Department* joined the *Kadman Museum* and the *Museum of Ancient Art* in purchasing the majority of the coins left—about 2,400 coins.

Recently, the *Antiquities Department* made a deal with a commercial firm in Tel Aviv which specializes in antiquities and their export. In exchange for 160 coins from the *Ussfieh Hoard* (and a licence to export them), the Department received 108 rare scarabs and seals from the "Tell" of Acre. The 160 coins exchanged were duplicates, and all were photographed and researched before the deal. Of course there is an argument for maintaining as complete the hoard as possible. But since the *Antiquities Department* is perennially short of money and budgets, and since the collection of scarabs and seals is a very rare one and without parallel in the Department's collection, it was decided to give up those duplicate coins than allow the dispersal of the scarab and seal collection.

And on the same subject: A silver shekel, year 3 of the Revolt (68-69 CE) was discovered in the Castel (sorry—*Mevassereth Zion*) by a 12-year-old boy, while playing football. The Castel (which takes its name from the Roman castle which stood on the site) is a hill guarding the approach to Jerusalem from the north. This is the country where such things can and do happen, though my own per-

sonal "luck" has yet to exceed the stage of arrowheads.

I am not going to write about AINA's tour of Israel, and I am sure it will not lack its historian. But, looking at part of it from Israeli point of view, one cannot help but remark how the dinner customarily given by Yitzhak Avni to celebrate the conclusion of the tour is rapidly becoming the event in our numismatic calendar, highlighting the whole year. It became a gala meeting of all concerned with numismatics — the official "side" represented by no less than the Governor of the Bank of Israel — and including the press, the trade and the collectors, and a meeting between all these and the visitors from the States. *Shalom*.

NUMISMATIC POSTERS

Collectors in Israel were offered two opportunities, around Independence Day, to decorate their dens, offices or what-not — *numismatically*. Perhaps a trend is beginning here. Who knows?

Bank Leumi le-Israel revived an idea they used years ago, and distributed to readers of *Ma'ariv*, one of Israel's largest dailies, a poster depicting numismatic history of Eretz Israel. *Coins Tell about Eretz Israel* is its title, and it starts the tale with Abraham purchasing the Cave of Mamre for 400 silver shekels. Then come the Persians, Greeks, Egyptians, Seleuks, the Jews, the Romans, Bar Kochva, the Arabs, the Crusaders, the Turks, the British — and finally, independent Israel. It was distributed to readers of the paper with its *Independence Day Issue*. About ten years ago *Bank Leumi* and the same paper collaborated on another poster, dedicated to coins and banknotes of Israel, which today is a real collectors' item.

On the day following Independence Day, the *Israel Museum* in Jerusalem opened an exhibition, *Old and New Coins in Eretz Israel*—comprising the collection of the *Bank of Israel* and the present day coinage as exhibited

Continued on Page 22

A UNIQUE BRASS PATTERN OF 25 MIL COIN OF 1949

by M. J. Zerder

On May 15, 1948 Israel joined the community of nations.

One of the first undertakings was the creation of money for the new State and the striking of coins to replace the Palestine Mandate coinage. An order was placed with the Heaton Mint for eight coins. With delivery anticipated in 1949, it became necessary to strike emergency coinage.

The first coin, and the only Israel coin bearing the date 1948 was a 25 mil coin struck in August, 1948. The dies were hand-cut by Moshe Munro of Jerusalem and the coins were struck by Alfred Salzman in a machine shop owned by Derech Beit Lachman, near Jerusalem. There were later strikings in Holon. Because the metal used was scrap aluminum strip, the poor quality of the metal shows in the generally poor quality of the coins. The results were not satisfactory as to artistry and the rate of production was low. Only 42,650 coins were struck.

In 1949, with the coins from the Heaton Mint still undelivered, it was decided to cut a set of dies with the date 1949 and to strike the coins in a metal other than aluminum. Test strikes were made in pewter, copper, brass and bronze. Because of the nature of the dies, the results with these harder metals were less than satisfactory and there was fear that the dies would crack. It was finally decided to revert to aluminum as in the 1948 minting.

The experimental coins in other metals were segregated and the order was given to destroy them by cutting them into small pieces. A number of pieces escaped the cutting process. The brass pattern is the only known complete coin in this metal. Based on information available, only 3 coins were



struck in brass. Two of these were cut up. The photograph shows the normal variety in aluminum to the left; the brass pattern to the right; and a cut section from one of the other two coins. It was purchased by the author during the 1973 AINA Study Tour to Israel.

With the delivery of coins from the Heaton Mint, the 25 mil coins were recalled from circulation. These ceased to be legal tender after June 9, 1950.

The brass pattern was on display at the recent AINA Convention in New York City. A permanent record of the creation of this pattern will appear in the Haffner book on Israel's money.

JERUSALEM DIARY

(Con't.)

by the *Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation*. The Museum's poster, unlike the Bank's, is a black and white only, but is perhaps the more dramatic. (Editor: see back cover, *The Shekel*). Again, numismatic history is depicted: The Jews, the Greeks, the Romans, the Arabs, the Crusaders, the Turks, the British — and Israel's own, flowing into the horizon.



NEW 9-MEDAL SET ISSUED HERE PUTS COIN-ON-STAMP ON MEDAL

A set of nine medals in pure silver has been announced by the 25th Anniversary Commemorative Medal Society in an edition to be limited to 1,000 collectors. The medals will feature the actual stamps of the first days of the Independence of Israel and have been created with the special permission of the Ministry of Posts, Israel.

In the period prior to the fateful UN decision which led to the birth of the State of Israel, the Jewish underground had already been put to work designing coinage and stamps for the state-to-be. Nine stamps were then created which today as a set have a value of thousands of dollars. These stamps, known to philatelists as the *Doar Ivri* (Hebrew Post) series, will be reproduced actual size. The reverse of each medal bears the English language translation of the tab originally affixed to the stamp, describing the coin illustrated on the stamp.

Coins on the nine stamps are among the most famed of ancient coinage and from the Bar Kochba and Hasmonean Era. These were illustrated with

grapes, chalice and other well-known symbols which today have become once again symbols on both stamps and coins of Israel.

The individually serial-numbered medals are 39mm, .999 pure silver and are to be issued monthly starting in September. A unique presentation case permanently stores the medals; a special fold-back flap makes it possible to display the medals in the case on a shelf or table. The set is \$180, payable at \$20.00 per medal for nine months. The price for a bronze set to be issued in 1974 has not been set.

10% Donation to AINA

A special arrangement has been made to donate 10% to AINA for every set sold to AINA members at the recent Greater New York Coin Show and on the special AINA registration form provided to all AINA members.

Orders or requests for additional information may be sent to AINA or to the 25th Anniversary Commemorative Medal Society, Box 75, Riverdale, New York 10471.

JUDAEAN JOTTINGS

by Mel Wacks

Mark Pennies of Free Masonry



When one collects "Judaeian" numismatic material, this means different things to different people. The obvious areas are modern Israel coins, medals and paper money, Palestine mandate material, and so on back thousands of years to the ancient coins of the Jews.

And then we come to the "fringe" areas — coins that "look" Jewish but are really not: the JEHOVAH coins of Denmark, Sweden, *et al*; the Star of David coins from North Africa; and many other tokens and medals featuring Hebrew inscriptions. The Masonic Mark Pennies (or *Shekels*) fall into this fringe category.

Free masonry is a "science which is engaged in the search after Divine Truth and which employs symbolism as the method of instruction." It is interesting to briefly investigate the "connection" between the Freemasons and the Jews. According to Norman Cohn in *Warrant for Genocide*:

"In the eighteenth century the Freemasons were on the whole hostile to the Jews. By the time of the French Revolution many lodges were still reluctant to accept Jewish members. At no time have Jews or persons of Jewish descent played a disproportionate part in Freemasonry."

But this did not deter certain theories that a Judaeo-Masonic conspiracy was responsible for the French Revolution

and this accusation later developed into the notorious *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

It is true that the Freemasons were concerned with humanitarian reform (i.e., abolition of judicial torture and of witchcraft trials) — and this indeed benefited possible targets for such mistreatment — the Jews.

It was around 1850 that the myth of Judaeo-Masonic conspiracy reappeared — this time in Germany — as a wea-

pon of the extreme right in its struggle against the growing forces of nationalism, liberalism, democracy and secularism. E. E. Eckert described how the Freemasons were organizing revolutionary movements, how they deliberately plunged the masses into moral barbarism and religious despair, and finally into economic desperation. No mention was made of Jewish involvement. However, another (anonymous) author did describe how the Freemasonry movement in Germany was governed by "unknown superiors" and consisted mostly of Jews. This anonymous hatemonger went on to describe two pseudo-Masonic lodges in London consisting entirely of Jews and whose threshold no Gentile could cross! These mythical *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* which supposedly contained the writings were to lead directly to the plan of a secret Jewish government to dominate the world. This infamous forgery was to provoke massacres during the Russian Civil War and eventually helped provide the ideology which caused the near-extirmination of European Jews by the Nazi.

In the United States, Jews were always active in the Masonic Lodges—the Revolutionary patriot Haym Salomon was an active member—but, Masonry is by no means a Jewish organization.

The interesting "Mark Pennies" have been produced by the various Masonic chapters with a multitude of designs — many of them based on the ancient Jewish Shekel (and related Jewish themes such as the Seal of Solomon, the Persian King Darius, the Ark of the Covenant, etc.). The Mark Penny, when received by a member of the Fraternity is supposed to be inscribed with his own particular



Photographs by Dr. Emanuel Rubin

"Shekels" issued by Shelby Chapter, Shelby, Ohio and The Berkshire Royal Arch Chapter of Pittsfield, Mass. have design of the Shekel of the First Revolt (66-70 AD) on the reverse.

"mark" and as soon as selected, placed on record, never to be changed, but to remain his "mark" until the day of his death. The samples in the illustrations show the initials "L. C." within an arrowhead on a "Shekel" issued by the Shelby Chapter of Shelby, Ohio, and an ornamental "S" on a "Shekel" of the Berkshire Royal Arch Chapter of Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

According to the Masons, Marks or pledges of this kind were of frequent use among the ancients under the name of *"tessara hospitalis"* (I. e., In the Medea of Euripides, Jason promises Medea on her parting from him to send her the symbols of hospitality which should procure her a kind reception in foreign countries).

The obverse of the Masonic Shekels are a copy of the ancient Jewish Shekel, issued during the First Revolt (66-70 C. E.). A chalice (or water laver?) is featured surrounded by the ancient

Hebrew inscription (somewhat muddled on the Masonic pieces) which reads SHEKEL OF ISRAEL.

The Shelby Shekel has the lodge number (178) and the initials R.A.M., standing for Royal Arch Masonry. It is the symbolism of the Second Temple of Jerusalem that forms the basis of the Royal Arch Degree. The letters H.T.W.S.S.T.K.S. arranged in a circle within a keystone represent the "mark" of the Ancient Grand Master. This is based on Revelations 2:17, *"To him who overcometh will give a white stone and in it a new name written which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."*

Both of the Shekels illustrated are made of silver, but similar pieces were also made in copper, aluminum, brass, bronze, nickel, white metal and nickel-silver.

So what is the conclusion? Masonic

Continued on Page 26

WHEN A POLICE HORSEMAN WON THE RACE IN TODAY'S CENTER OF TEL-AVIV

by S. Matalon

About 42 years ago, on the 29th September 1931, a horse race took place in Tel Aviv. It was the second of its kind, and was held in an open area near the Yarkon river, today in the center of the city. The municipality of Tel Aviv, then a township (it was not to attain the status of city for some years hence) issued a municipal medal to commemorate the event.

The medal is uniface, depicting the lovely head of a horse, with the words "Municipality of Tel Aviv" in Hebrew at the top, "Township of Tel Aviv" in English at the bottom, and above this date, 29.9.31. It is made of cupronickel, 33mm. diameter, and weighs 11 grams. The horse should certainly be proud of itself - to the best of my knowledge, it is the one and only of its race to be depicted, and so elegantly, on a Palestine or an Israeli medal - and in profile, too!

42 years might not sound as too long a period. Nevertheless, it was impossible to acquire some information about things, such as this race, from living sources. Nor was information available in the municipal archives.

Details were found in the press of the following day, September 30th. Some sixty riders took part in the race,



which was organized by the Riders' Club of Tel Aviv. Arab riders participated as well. Lack of experience by the riders, especially in starting, made it necessary to restart the race several times.

Policeman, Gordon, who "won again the first prize" later became owner of the first riding school in Palestine, after 2000 years, if memory serves right. It should also be noted that the municipality's involvement went as far as lending the Tel Aviv Fire Brigade Band, which played at the intermissions. And little wonder - the Mayor of Tel Aviv, Meir Dizengoff, was a confirmed horse rider himself.

MASONIC MEDALS

(Con't.)

Shekels are not "Jewish" but can be a fascinating relatively inexpensive addition to any collection of Judaic numismatics. I strongly recommend Norman Cohn's book, *Warrant for Genocide—the Myth of the Jewish World-Conspiracy and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, for reading, and E. A. King's *Masonic Chapter Pennies* for further study.

FREE TRIP TO ISRAEL

See your local INS president or club secretary for information on how you may win a free trip to Israel. Winner will join the 1974 AINA Study Tour in March, 1974. Winner will be announced in November.

JEWISH FANTASY MEDALS

by Dov Genachowski

Quite some time ago I had occasion to write about these fantasy medals originating from Egypt, especially from the Jewish point of view (*Elon, Israel Numismatic Society, Vol. 3 No. 1, July 1968*). These originated from the fact that the Turkish gold coins were not just money, but jewels as well. Bedouin women wore silver coins; urban women, especially in Egypt, gold coins. Not all of them could afford the real coins (and these were worn in large quantities), and for them, imitations were produced all over the Middle East: copper for gold, white metal for silver. Usually these imitated the *altuns* of Muhammed II.

Following the First World War, fashion shifted from the Turkish design to something "more western", and manufacturers followed suit. These were produced in very large quantities throughout the Twenties, less so during the Thirties. They bear the head of old Franz-Joseph, the portrait of Lord Kitchener, of Fuad I, the Austrian Eagle and what-not, with inscriptions in terrible English, French and Italian.

A. Kindler purchased a small collection of these for the *Kadman Museum*, which includes one Jewish medal:

Obv. Portrait of Emperor Franz-Joseph to right, surrounded by the inscription "Medallion f.o.r. Egyptian. Ladies. W.". Rev. The Austrian Eagle, surrounded by "Nassi Freres Caire 1914 Sarafie Sagha" — the last two words denoting the address of the brothers Nassi, quite a name in Jewish history.

Two other such medals are in my collection:



Obv. Lord Kitchener to left, surrounded by "Field Marshal Lord Kitchener" Rev. Star of David above an Austrian Eagle, surrounded by "Precent (!) by Letu (!) Hayim Levy Egypt for Unemployed Money".

Kitchener and the eagle are nothing new. The Star of David is. Who Lieutenant (that's what the "Letu" stands for) was and what did he do with his "unemployed money" I don't know, though I hope he did not pay any unemployed ladies with it.

Recently I saw another one, which I publish with the courtesy of Arie Better of Haifa:



Obv. Coat of Arms imitating that on Spanish coinage, surrounded by "Medaille. Fantaisie. Egypt". Rev. Supposedly ancient Egyptian head to right, with the inscription "David. M. Menasha. Cairo", and to complete the picture three assay marks, as this one does have some silver in it.



A major exhibit of Israel Government coins, currency and medals was on display in the late Spring at the American Bank and Trust Company as part of the celebrations of Israel's 25th Anniversary. Left: Morris Bram, president of AINA; John J. Pittman, president of ANA; Israel consul general David Rivlin; Saul Kagan, President of the Bank; Rafael Aldor, and Ed Janis, AINA Board Member and writer of the Aleph Beth column in *The Shekel*.

TEXANS MEET

The INS of Texas January meeting held elections with the following officers being nominated and elected:

President	Harold Z. Nelkin
Vice President	Herbert Oberman
Secretary	Chris Jasso
Treasurer	Alfred M. Selsky

The club has grown considerably with good attendance at each meeting, held regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at The Mercantile Bank, 410 S. Braeswood Blvd. Houston, Texas at 7:30 P.M. in the evening. An auction, movies and very interesting discussions are part of each meeting, along with free refreshments for visitors and guests.

The INS of Texas was in the process of designing and producing its own PNC Israel 25th anniversary cover as a club project rather than having it done by a commercial company. Each member has his or her job on the project and they look towards a beautiful "Home Made" product.



WOODEN AGOROT CREATED BY CALIFORNIANS

Members of the INS of San Gabriel Valley, California were responsible for creating one of the most unusual numismatic novelties relating to Israel with creation of a set of wooden agorot in 1, 5, 10, 12 and 25 agorot "denominations"

GOULD HEADS ISRAEL OF L. A.

Maurice M. Gould, F.R.N.S.-N.L.G., Syndicated Columnist and World Renowned Numismatist was installed as President of the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles on early in 1973, by Joseph J. Goldberg, well known dealer in Numismatics. Maurice writes *COIN ROUNDUP* each week, a national column read by millions of collectors. He has authored many books and has served as Honorary Secretary for the United States For The Israel Numismatic Society. His column, *GOULD'S GELT GUIDE* is widely read by members of AINA. Both his wife Jean and he received the *Annual Award* for contributing the most to Israel Numismatics for 1971.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

The following will serve as officers assisting Mr. Gould: Dr. Sol Taylor, 1st Vice President; Val Mogensen, 2nd Vice President; Evelyn Sadler, Recording Secretary; Sarah Breslow, Corresponding Secretary; Nate Bromberg, Treasurer. The board of governors will consist of Immediate Past President Claire Abelson, Ben Abelson, Lester Dubin, Milton Fishgold, Dr. Nathan Gitlin, Carl Lerner, Armando Ojedo, Cliff Roth, Bill Sadler. Dr. Sol Taylor will be Bulletin Editor and Leonard J. Sterling Publicity Chairman.



MEDALLION HONORS ISRAEL ON 25th

In tribute to the 25th Anniversary of the State of Israel, the International Numismatic Agency, 96 Prince Street, New York City, New York 10012 an-

nounces the new medallion, "Salute to Israel," in pure silver: \$40.00 until July 15. Bronze: \$10.

Minted in deep relief in the large 2½" or 64 mm. medallion size reserved for prestigious occasions at the Medallic Art Company of Danbury, Conn., the new medallion was available for public release in June.

The new medallion was designed and sculptured by Elizabeth Jones, Member of the National Sculpture Society.

"Salute to Israel" celebrates the Israel experience from concept to reality. The obverse features the four portraits of those instrumental in the creation of the state of Israel: Dr. Theodore Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism; Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the first President of Israel; David Ben-Gurion, first Prime Minister of Israel. The legend reads "Wanderers No More."

LINDSAY AWARDED BAR-ILAN U. MEDAL



L. to R.: Robert Messing, N.Y. Director of Development, Bar Ilan U.; Matityahu Adler, Director-General, Bar Ilan U.; Mayor John V. Lindsay; Michael Shashar, Israel Consul; and a reporter for Yediot Achronot, Israeli newspaper.

6 WINNERS SHARE AWARDS



Golan Heights by Alan R. Weinberg

The first photographic contest for AINA members and guests on an Annual Study Tour of Israel has ended with the award of *Three First Prizes* and *Three Honorable Mentions*.

The contest was announced on the airplane to all AINA Tour members so that they could start taking photos from the moment they landed with an eye towards winning numismatic prizes for best efforts in three selected categories:

The Beauty of Israel
The Fun of the Trip
Land of The Bible

Photographers were to enter any prints, slides or other photographic effort, without regard to size, etc.

All entries were in color and many were in slides. The winners have been reproduced in these pages in black-and-white which does not convey the successful mood and spirit captured by the photographers. There were no entries in the *Fun of the Trip* theme; the judges have awarded two First Prizes in *Land of the Bible*; and one in *The Beauty of Israel*.

First Prize Winner, Land of the Bible
—Dr. Samuel Levine, Denver, Colorado.



King David's Tower by Fred Roganson



Mount Sinai by Dr. Samuel Levine

First Prize Winner, Land of the Bible
— Fred G. Roganson, Branford, Conn.

First Prize Winner, The Beauty of Israel — Alan R. Weinberg, Bronx, N. Y.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Morris Traub, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Louis Gordon, San Antonio, Texas; and M. J. Zerder, Syosset, N. Y.

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Morris, The Miracle Man

Morris Bram, like the hardy, proverbial Biblical figures, has led the American Israel Numismatic Association through five and a half years as its founding president with all the inspiration, zest, steadfastness and wisdom of those ancient leaders.

With his tact, his ability to smooth out the rough places, his rapport with the Israel government officials, his diplomacy that ought to rate him at least a charge d'affaires portfolio, plus an innate good sense of humor and durability, Morris Bram richly deserves the recent honor accorded him at a convention which proved in deed the words of praise heaped upon him.

It was under his skilled leadership that the Greater New York Coin Convention was held recently — the first convention for AINA. Although some of the coins were 2,500 years old, the convention atmosphere sparkled with "Now," another tribute to its chairman.

Morris Bram was named Life Member No. 1 of AINA, and was re-elected to another two-year term as its president. The citation presented to him at the Saturday night banquet praised him as a friend, leader, true American, sincere patriot of Israel. It recorded his devotion, wise judgement and brilliant achievement.

A standing ovation followed the presentation. We are certain Mr. Bram's friends from coast to coast who were not fortunate enough to be present share with enthusiasm his well-deserved honor.

These days, but we can assure our readers their voices are being heard. Never have there been so many letters to our lawmakers about numismatic affairs. Never have they been so needed.

The Editorial Staff of The Shekel is proud to reproduce a recent editorial in Coin World exactly as it appeared recently. Few individuals in AINA will receive the compliment of these public laudatory comments by the numismatic press.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Con't.)

The meeting of the first elected Board and the establishment of true regional representatives for the South, Midwest and Far West prove the growth of our organization administratively and organizationally. The Workshop in which members of AINA-affiliated groups could request assistance and propose positive measures about future AINA activities was a Town Hall meeting of numismatics that was truly democracy in action. The Banquet was a sell-out with over 200 enthused participants hearing stirring remarks by a most genial and warm-hearted toastmaster/MC, Mr. George Becht.

After polling out-of-town representatives, I can report that there is general and widespread enthusiasm for a repeat in New York in 1974 with 1975 to be the break-out year when the Midwest or Far West or Miami will host this most wonderful opportunity to meet your friends from afar.

Coming as it did barely weeks after the most successful Fifth Annual Study Tour to Israel (in early March), it was like nothing any of us had ever experienced before. Imagine! 115 people in a 3-bus entourage carrying the banner of American interest in Israel's numismatics all over the Holy Land. The exceptional hospitality by our Israeli hosts and friends and the desire of individuals to already plan for 1974 make it necessary for us to announce NOW that we are already scheduled for the Sixth Annual Tour, which will leave on March 4th.

The AINA Tours began with a handful of INS members and family. Now we have really reached the maximum numbers who can be accommodated at banquets, in buses, in hotel bookings, etc. We now know that there will be a sell-out of the Sixth Annual Study Tour—early. I urge you to plan NOW to participate; and to confirm your desire with a letter and a check for \$100.00 as an advance deposit.

And just think, when you're back in mid-March, you'll already be looking

forward to the Annual Study Tour Reunion . . . only a few weeks later at the New York Sheraton Hotel, May 2-5 at AINA's Second Convention.

How the Time Flies! Lovingly from AINA Member No. One, your friend and re-elected President.

Morris Bram

CONNECTICUT ISRAEL SOCIETY HAS MEETING

A regular meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society of Connecticut was held in the Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center. Topic of the evening was all of the medals and coins available from the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation. Members were told of prices and the ordering source, reported *Coin World*.

A slide program, first in a series of 24 programs, was shown. The series includes the history, politics and modern issues of the Holy Land, from ancient through medieval times to the present.

Abraham Slopak, author of many articles appearing in *Coin World* and *World Coins*, spoke on issues of Palestine and Israel.

25-PRUTA (Con't.)

sketches and it would be entirely reasonable for the Israeli authorities to require samples before giving final approval.

"I doubt if very many examples of the 25-pruta specimen were struck because despite the obviously confidential nature of these proceedings I think that more would have come to light after 20 years; additionally I think there would have been some reference to the specimens if struck in quantity, however slight, in our files. We do not have one in our cabinet."

Poole explains that the inscription SPECIMEN was originally stamped into a virgin working die.

Two other 25-pruta SPECIMEN pieces are believed to be in the hands of American collectors.

Mrs. Haffner also reports a 10-prutot aluminum coin of 1952, scalloped edge, with the word SPECIMEN on the reverse.

מטבעות מספרות על ארץ-ישראל

מאת **בוק לאומי**
מאת **בוק לאומי**

שי לוקודאי



מטבעות של המנדט הבריטי, 1917-1948



מטבעות של המנדט הבריטי, 1917-1948



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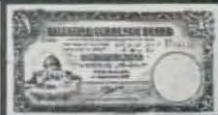
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לדעת המחבר, מטבעות אלה הם חלק מההיסטוריה של ישראל, ויש להם חשיבות רבה.

Copies of this full color poster, 13" x 19", originally published by Ma'ariv, Israeli newspaper, is available for a one dollar donation to The Kadman Museum, Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv, Israel. See story on page 21.



עתיק וחדש במטבעות ארץ-ישראל
old and new coins in eretz-israel
מוזיאון ישראל the israel museum

in cooperation with the bank of israel and the israel government
coins and medals corporation

spring 1973

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אביב תשל"ג